

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 116998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA GOALS IMPLEMENTATION INTERAGENCY MEETING

REF: VIENNA 3274; STATE 80066; VIENNA 1815

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE APRIL 13 AUSTRIA INTERAGENCY MEETING
RESULTED IN A REVIEW OF THE CONDENSED GOALS IMPLEMENTATION
STATEMENT, EMBASSY COMMENTS, AND THE PRESENT STATE OF US-
AUSTRIAN RELATIONS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION FOCUSED ON US
DEFENSE ASSISTANCE OBLIGATIONS, AUSTRIAN ENERGY POLICIES,
POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING THE US IMAGE WITH THE YOUNGER
AUSTRIAN GENERATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A
TWO-WAY INTERCHANGE WITH AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ON HUMAN-
ITARIAN PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY

1. THE SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT
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SECRETARY GOODBY AND ATTENDED BY DOC, DOD, CIA AND OTHER
STATE OFFICERS. SEPARATELY, TREASURY PROVIDED COMMENTS.
AFTER BACKGROUND EXPLANATION OF THE GOALS/OBJECTIVES
EXERCISE, WHICH IS ASSUMING THE ROLE PREVIOUSLY HELD BY
POLICY GUIDANCE DIRECTIVES, THE DISCUSSANTS CONSIDERED THE
STATE OF PLAY OF THE US-AUSTRIAN RELATIONSHIP AND REVIEWED
THE PRESENT IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENTS AS WELL AS

SUBMITTED REVISIONS.

2. THE IO REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORTED THE THIRD UN CITY STATEMENT, ADDING THAT NAIROBI APPEARS TO HAVE ASSUMED THE TITLE OF FOURTH UN CITY.

3. IT WAS FELT THAT THE GOALS STATEMENT SHOULD SOMEHOW BETTER REFLECT THE PECULIAR EXPOSED POSITION OF AUSTRIA, ITS TRADITIONAL POST-WAR RELATIONSHIP TO THE US, AND THE DESIRABILITY OF TIGHTER LINKS ... NOT THAT THE AUSTRIANS LEAN TOO HEAVILY TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST LINE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THEY MAY BE AIMING FOR CLOSER TIES WITH THIRD WORLD NATIONS AT THE COST OF WESTERN CONNECTIONS.

4. ICA REPS EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDELINES, WITH THE CAUTION THAT FURTHER REDUCTIONS WOULD SEVERELY RESTRICT THE ICA EFFORT. THE GROUP AGREED IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE EMBASSY TO PLACE MORE STRESS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT WITH PROMISING YOUTH LEADERS, SINCE US-AUSTRIAN TIES WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION ARE LESS CLOSE THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1945. IN THIS REGARD THE GROUP AGREED THAT WHILE INTRODUCTION OF AN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM MIGHT BE A WORTHWHILE EFFORT, THIS ONLY LIGHTLY TOUCHED THE BROADER OVERALL PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH YOUTH AND AT THE SAME TIME MIGHT OVER-
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TAX LIMITED ICA RESOURCES. THE NECESSITY OF COORDINATING SUCH GOALS AND EXPANSION EFFORTS WITH THE ICA COUNTRY PROGRAM WAS RECOGNIZED.

5. SOMEWHAT RELATED WAS THE EXCHANGE CONCERNING THE PROPRIETY OF US EFFORTS TO GET THE AUSTRIANS TO MODERNIZE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT IN LIGHT OF FMS RESTRICTIONS. THIS LED TO A REVIEW OF LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY BY THE 1955 STATE TREATY. IT WAS AGREED THE RELEVANT IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT REQUIRES REWORDING.

6. CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PECULIAR ROLE IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. THE GROUP FELT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO RECOGNIZE ASSISTANCE HE MIGHT RENDER US EFFORTS BY INCLUSION OF AN APPROPRIATE GOALS IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT.

7. SINCE THE US HAS NOT ANNOUNCED A POLICY OF LOWERING THE DOLLAR FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE IN ORDER TO PUSH US EXPORTS, THE GROUP THOUGHT IT WISE TO DROP REFERENCE TO THE DOLLAR'S VALUE IN THE RELEVANT REVISED IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT. NOTE WAS TAKEN OF RECENT EFFORTS BY THE GOA TO EXPAND TRADE

WITH THE EAST, AS WELL AS THE DEPENDENCE OF AUSTRIA ON ENERGY RESOURCES FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. IDEALLY THE US MIGHT WISH THIS DEPENDENCE TO BE DECREASED, YET REALISTICALLY AUSTRIA'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION MADE THIS DIFFICULT. THIS LED TO AN EXCHANGE ON THE HEAVY AUSTRIAN INTEREST IN US NUCLEAR POLICIES, DEMONSTRATED BY THE LARGE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION DUE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 19-21 FOR DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR ISSUES. IT WAS FELT THAT A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE CONFUSION THAT HAS DEVELOPED IN INITIATING AN AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM WAS THAT THE GOA HAD ENTERED THE FIELD AT A LATER PHASE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH HAD MANAGED TO START NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE THE NASCENT AUSTRIAN

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EFFORT.

8. IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE MAJOR AUSTRIAN INVESTMENT IN THE US AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AN AREA OF POTENTIAL EXPANSION IN VIEW OF THE DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE ... EVEN IF REVERSE INVESTMENT ENCOURAGEMENT IS NOT A DECLARED US POLICY. ON THE OTHER HAND RECENT GOA EFFORTS TO STEM CAPITAL FLOW OUT OF THE COUNTRY MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. NONETHELESS, THE GROUP FELT THAT THIS WAS A GENERAL AREA THAT DESERVED ATTENTION BY EB AND THE EMBASSY.

9. FINALLY, IT WAS STRESSED THAT THE US SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THE AUSTRIANS ANY HUMAN RIGHTS OR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES WE PROPOSED, FOR EXAMPLE, DEALING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. IT WAS FELT THAT HERE THE INITIATIVE SHOULD LIE WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO START THE DIALOGUE, HOWEVER, RATHER THAN EMBASSY VIENNA.

10. IN CLOSING, GOODBY ANNOUNCED THAT AMBASSADOR WOLF WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR CONSULTATIONS, SHOULD ANY OF THE OFFICERS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING WISH TO RAISE SUBJECTS WITH HIM.

11. A REVISED IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT WILL NOW BE PREPARED TO REFLECT THESE INTERAGENCY COMMENTS. VANCE

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